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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT

Rumanian and Soviet

Troops in Rumania

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- 1. All Rumanian Army barracks in the cities listed below are occupied by Soviet troops. Rumanian troops originally occupying these barracks have been dislodged and transferred to barracks constructed for the purpose. The cities concerned are Ploesti, Brasov, Buzau, Ramnicul Sarat, Focsani, Adjud, Galati, Braila, Sfantul Gheorghe, Miercurea Ciuc.
- There are concentrations of troops on the border between Rumania and Yugoslavia. In this zone as well the Rumanians have been evacuated and replaced by units of the Red Army. The cities concerned particularly are Timisoara, Arad, Orsova, Turnul Severin, Lugoj, Caransebes, and Deva. The Soviet units consist primarily of tankmen and motor-drawn heavy artillery.
- 3. The city of Constanta and the Whole of the Rumanian seacoast on the Black Sea, is occupied only by Soviet troops; all Rumanian troops have been removed to the interior of Rumania. Rumanian civilians must have a special pass given by the Rumanian State Security authorities and approved by Soviet military authorities in order to enter into the Constanta zone. There have been therefore very few summer visitors at the bathing resorts of the Black Sea with the exception of trusted Rumanian Communist Party members.
- 4. The Constanta zone has considerable defense installations, special heavy coastal batteries, and a great number of anti-aircraft batteries. About September 1950, some pieces of heavy artillery mounted on railroad cars were brought in, along with German armored trains captured by the Soviets during World War II.
- 5. In the Mamaia zone, a seaplane base, in existence before world war II, has been re-established on a small lake some distance from the sea. The former Rex Hotel has been transformed into living quarters for the officers of this base. Access is forbidden to bathers.
- 6. At the end of August 1950, new levies were made for the army. However, the period of service under the levies was only to be about six months. Those who came in were subjected to a severe politico-military training, which seems to have been the reason for the call-up.

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- 7. Certain specialized types of military instruction are entrusted to Soviet officers. The Russians handle training of artillery, armored force, engineers, (including such specialties as demolitions, flame-throwers, bridge builders, sappers, radiotelegraphists, electricians, et cetera). The infantry is instructed by Rumanian officers, most of whom come from the working class and are commissioned after a special course which lasts from three to nine months, depending on the intellectual background of the officer candidate.
- 8. Nearly all arms are of Soviet origin and are the same as those used by the Soviets. Host infantry and artillery units are motorized. Trucks in use are Soviet (Ziss) and Czechoslovak (Tatra and Skoda with Diesel motors and four-wheel drive). Old trucks of German make and the remaining United States vehicles are used only by the supply services or by the air force. They are in poor condition, due to lack of spare parts, and the slightest repair is a serious problem. However, certain Rumanian factories have started production of spare parts, copied from the originals (for example, elbow shafts, Cardan joints, connecting rods, axles, et cetera).
- 9. The period of training for levies always ends with an extended maneuver using live ammunition. However, every evening the soldiers must hand over their personal arms and ammunition, which are stored during the night. Only the guard personnel remains armed.
- 10. Each unit of battalion strength has a political commissar. Such officers are drawn exclusively from the Rumanian Workers Party, following a special course of political preparation at the Education, Culture and Propaganda School of Breaza.
- 11. The soldiers are well-fed, well-equipped, and well-paid. The income of a non-commissioned officer is more than the pay of many high-ranking state officials. Some top sergeants receive up to 22,000 lei per month. The difference between the pay of officers and non-commissioned officers is small, and is more or less a matter of form. Enlisted men are paid on the same basis as qualified industrial workers.
- 12. The recruitment of officers and non-commissioned officers for permanent active service is handled by the cadre branches of the unions, which turn over lists of men to the military district headquarters concerned. For active military duty the men preferred are those who have already distinguished themselves as workers, or in union and political activities. Officers and non-commissioned officers are also recruited with great care among the troops of proven political faithfulness; in this case, the selection is made by the battalion political commissar. Career soldiers of the old regime have been reduced to the indispensable minimum, and it is expected in due time all will be eliminated. They are being replaced by new men, preferably workers.
- 13. Uniforms of Rumanian armed forces are in all respects identical with those of the Soviet Army, both for summer and winter. The tri-color rosette which until a short time ago distinguished the Rumanians has recently been replaced by the red star. Military grades and insignia are identical with those of the Soviets. Since the insignia is the same it is difficult today to distinguish a Rumanian soldier from a Soviet soldier. Only the uniform buttons retain the coat-of-arms of the Rumanian Republic rather than the hammer and sickle.
- 14. Military personnel in general, the so-called "faithful armed guard of the great socialist revolution," do not enjoy the confidence of the local authorities which every civilized state reposes in its armed forces. In spite of all his advantages, the general opinion is that in case of war the Rumanian soldier will be ready to turn against the present oppressors of Rumania, passing en mass to the Allied side. This could come to pass, of course, only if the Rumanians were sent to the fromt. It is feared, however, that in the case of war the Rumanian armed forces would be sent to the interior of the Soviet Union, to replace Soviet troops for internal garrison purposes. Already, there are rumors of certain companies being sent to the Soviet Union for a period of instruction and training, and it is feared that other Rumanian military units in case of war would share the same fate.

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- 15. Violations of military discipline are punished very severely. For the least infraction, a long prison sentence is imposed, while for more serious cases the death sentence is given.
- 16. Desertions are not frequent except among border guards which have gone over in large numbers to Yugoslavia. These have now been replaced by Soviet soldiers.